

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 68

By Miller

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Minister Suhkara A. Yahweh of Memphis.

WHEREAS, we were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Minister Suhkara A. Yahweh of Memphis, a community and civil rights leader, a faithful friend, and an inspiration to all who were fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, born Lance Watson on August 19, 1938, Minister Yahweh was a native Memphian who spent most of his formative years in the Orange Mound community; and

WHEREAS, he began living with his aunt and uncle at the age of four, and when he turned sixteen, he came back to live with his mother; he attended high school at Hamilton High School, where he was known as an excellent dancer; and

WHEREAS, although his young adult years were troubled, he experienced a period of transformation during which he read Bible scripture, Mao, and the writings of several great thinkers; his self-discovery occurred amid the percolating backdrop of marching and organizing in the South; and

WHEREAS, known as "Willie Wine" for his consumption of wine, his transformation was first reflected by the adoption of the name "Sweet Willie Wine" and later Minister Suhkara A. Yahweh to reflect his evolved relationship with Yeshua, or Jesus; and

WHEREAS, Minister Yahweh engaged in a decades-long fight for civil rights and social justice; most notably, he became a highly visible member of The Invaders, a Black Power component in Memphis that worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who came to the city to support the sanitation workers on strike in 1968; and

WHEREAS, a man of the people, Suhkara Yahweh was wholly committed to the organization and its cause; his involvement there and with the Poor People's Campaign caused him to become a folk hero of the Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, Minister Yahweh devoted his life to serving others, and he should be remembered for his many contributions and the example he set for future generations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Minister Suhkara A. Yahweh, reflecting fondly upon his dedication to humanity and extending our sympathy and condolences to his family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.